

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. By this Response, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, claims 1-10, 14-18 and 21-29, with traverse. Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Office's Election/Restriction requirement be withdrawn in light of the search already performed. See MPEP §803, in which it is stated that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that there can be no serious burden on the Office because the search has already been completed. It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Species Election Requirement between species I and II. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicants, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Darrell L. Pogue/

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